Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

Claims 1-10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (currently amended): A method for motion estimation in a digitized image having pixels, comprising:

grouping pixels in picture blocks,

in which the pixels are grouped to form at least one first picture area and one second picture area;

wherein first motion estimation is carried out in a first search area for at least one first picture block in the first picture area to determine a first motion vector whereby movement of the first picture block is described in comparison to the first picture block in a preceding picture and/or in comparison to the first picture block in a subsequent picture;

wherein second motion estimation is carried out in a second search area for at least one second picture block in the second search area to determine a second motion vector whereby movement of the second picture block is described in comparison to the second picture block in a preceding picture and/or in comparison to the second picture block in a subsequent picture;

wherein the first search area and the second search area are of different sizes; and

wherein the size of the first search area and/or of the second search area is varied as a function of a predetermined picture quality according to which the first picture block and/or the second picture block are/is coded such that if the picture quality of the first picture block is higher than the picture quality of the second picture block, then the size of the first search area is larger than the size of the second search area, whereas if the picture quality of the first picture block is lower than the picture quality of the second picture block, then the size of the second search area is smaller than the size of the second search area.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 11 wherein the size of the first search area and/or of the second search area are/is varied as a function of a quantization parameter whereby the first picture block and/or the second picture block are/is quantized.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method of claim 11 used for coding the digitized image.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 13 wherein variable length coding of the motion vectors is carried out; and a number of stored, different tables, in which codes for variable length coding are stored, are used for variable length coding.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 14 wherein the tables are matched to the maximum length of the motion vectors.

Claim 16 (currently amended): An arrangement for motion estimation in a digitized image having pixels, comprising:

a processor which is set up such that the following steps can be carried out:

the pixels are grouped in picture blocks;

the pixels are grouped to form at least one first picture area and one second picture area;

first motion estimation is carried out in a first search area for at least one first picture block in the first picture area to determine a first motion vector whereby movement of the first picture block is described in comparison to the first picture block in a preceding picture and/or in comparison to the first picture block in a subsequent picture;

second motion estimation is carried out in a second search area for at least one second picture block in the second search area to determine a second motion vector whereby movement of the second picture block is described in comparison to the second picture block in a preceding picture and/or in comparison to the second picture block in a subsequent picture;

in which the first search area and the second search area are of different sizes; and

in which the size of the first search area and/or of the second search area is varied as a function of a predetermined picture quality according to which the first picture block and/or the second picture block are/is coded such that if the picture quality of the first picture block is

higher than the picture quality of the second picture block, then the size of the first search area is larger than the size of the second search area, whereas if the picture quality of the first picture block is lower than the picture quality of the second picture block, then the size of the second search area is smaller than the size of the second search area.

Claim 17 (original): The arrangement of claim 16 wherein the processor is set up such that the size of the first search area and/or of the second search area are/is varied as a function of a quantization parameter whereby the first picture block and/or the second picture block are/is quantized.

Claim 18 (original): The arrangement of claim 16 used in a picture coding device.

Claim 19 (original): The arrangement of claim 16, used in a picture coding device,
    wherein the processor is set up such that, variable length coding of the motion vectors is carried out; and a number of stored, different tables, in which codes for variable length coding are stored, are used for variable length coding.

Claim 20 (original): The arrangement of claim 19 wherein the processor is set up such that the tables are matched to the maximum length of the motion vectors.